



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

August 9, 2022

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Honorable members of Planning Commission
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Athletic Field Lighting

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

The Park & Recreation Commission unanimously endorses the plan put forth by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities to add field lighting to five proposed locations: Francis C Hammond Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School, Jefferson Houston K-8 School, George Washington Middle School and Eugene Simpson Stadium Park.

As you are aware, a multitude of new construction and modernization projects have limited the availability of field capacity during a time in which the City has experienced a significant increase in demand for recreational resources by both our student population as well as our fellow citizens. This is all good news! We want our fields to be actively utilized and have an opportunity to increase capacity to meet the increased demand.

Adding lights to an existing field, particularly a synthetic field, increases the useability of that field by approximately 1,100 hours per year. This increase in field capacity is extraordinarily efficient when compared to creating new fields, which are substantially more expensive to build and requires the land to accommodate the field and its infrastructure needs.

We understand the concerns related to additional field usage including excessive noise, and trash outside of the receptacles. Because the use of a lighted athletic field is by permit only, City staff will be in a better position to manage problems as they arise, and if necessary, we encourage RPCA staff to coordinate with ACPS and APD to respond to these issues by potentially revoking permits of non-complying parties or citing repeat offenders.

Opportunities to add capacity to our recreational system in a cost-efficient manner should not be missed and we encourage the full funding of these projects and endorse the approval of these five sites.

Please reach out to the Commission to further advise on this issue.

Sincerely,

SBeggs
SBeggs (Aug 9, 2022 12:14 EDT)

Stephen Beggs, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission

Stuart Fox
Stuart Fox (Aug 9, 2022 12:15 EDT)

Stuart Fox, Planning District I
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Park & Recreation Commission members
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Letter_PRC Athletic Field Lighting final August 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-08-09

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